Foodgrains Management Policy

*363. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report, captioned, "Foodgrains Management Policy in limbo" appearing in the Hindu dated the 8th March, 2002;

(b) if so, by when a firm Foodgrains Management Policy is likely to be put in place; and

(c) whether the opinion of the various State Governments with regard to the Foodgrains Management Policy is likely to be solicited before finalising the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The High Level Committee constituted by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy is now expected to submit its report in May, 2002. The recommendations made by the said Committee will be duly examined and a new Grain Policy formulated expeditiously.

(c) The High Level Committee has already held meetings with many State Governments. Further consultations with the State Governments will be held by the Government of India, if considered necessary, after the receipt of the report of the High Level Committee.